

August 20, 1979

MEMORANDUM

TO: John Green

FROM: *Mary Jane*
Vito Blomo

SUBJECT: Establishment of Criteria to Define "Significant" Projects for Committee and Council Review

On August 15, Richard Hoogland of the Environmental Assessment Division (NMFS) and I met to discuss (1) criteria to define significant projects of concern to the Council, and (2) implementation of a more timely system of notification from NMFS regarding such projects. The following is a description of these two issues for your consideration:

A. Criteria to define significant projects

- 1) Projects that directly impact on fisheries for which FMP's are being developed by Council.
- 2) Projects that directly impact on areas 50 acres or more in total surface area.
- 3) A case-by-case review of projects directly impacting areas less than 50 acres; such as precedent-setting projects, or projects in unique or critical habitat areas.
- 4) Projects having a substantial or significant non-direct impact on an area 50 acres or more; i.e., prevention of surface water flow, detritus export, saltwater intrusion.
- 5) Highly 'controversial' projects; i.e., those with much publicity, strong opinions from user groups of affected resource.

NOTE: NMFS policy is to recommend denial of permit those projects which are non-water dependent.

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B. Project notification system from NMFS.

- 1) Transmittal of criteria on projects to NMFS field offices by NMFS Regional Office.
- 2) Immediate notification of Council by mail from NMFS field office of significant project accompanied by Public Notice (application to Corps).
- 3) Field appraisal available to Council within 15 days from either NMFS field office or Regional Office per telephone request after review of initial notification by Council staff.
- 4) Final report (comment) accompanied by field appraisal transmitted to Council within 30 days by NMFS Regional Office.

NOTE: Hoogland stated comments from Council on projects are important to Corps of Engineers since COE is interested in state comments and Council members are appointed by state governors.

This notification system can be expanded to other agencies responsible for reviewing projects and providing Council with comments; agencies include Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency and state resource agencies.

C. Action

Committee should modify and/or adopt criteria and notification system as outlined above. Hoogland is awaiting verbal communication from Council staff to implement this system and transmittal of criteria to field offices. Further, this system can be expanded to other agencies.

VB:mjl